

Message Text

PAGE 01 PARIS 30798 010449Z

11

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 IO-14 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 DRC-01 EB-11 /150 W

----- 001359

R 301902Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5155

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 30798

GENEVA FOR CSCE DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFR, EIND, BU, FR

SUBJECT: VISIT OF BULGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO PARIS

1. SUMMARY. THE CALM OF AN OTHERWISE ROUTINE VISIT BY BULGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MLADENOV TO PARIS WAS BROKEN BY THE COMMUNIST DAILY, L'HUMANITE, WHICH, SHORTLY AFTER HIS DEPARTURE, ATTACKED HIS CONCILIATORY PUBLIC STATEMENT ON FRENCH POLICY IN THE CSCE. WHILE THE MOTIVES FOR THIS CRITICISM REMAIN UNCLEAR, IT FITS INTO CURRENT PCF CAMPAIGN AGAINST WHAT IT CHARGES ARE FRENCH ATTEMPTS TO TRANSFORM THE EC-MINE INTO A "MILITARY ORGANIZATION." THE VISIT ITSELF
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 30798 010449Z

FOCUSED MAINLY ON FRENCH-BULGARIAN ECONOMIC RELATIONS AND IN PARTICULAR ON WAYS OF INCREASING BULGARIAN EXPORTS TO FRANCE.
END SUMMARY.

2. MLADENOV'S VISIT TO PARIS, NOVEMBER 21-24, WAS DESIGNED AS A FOLLOW UP TO THE TRIP BY MESSMER AND JOBERT TO SOFIA LAST SUMMER. HE HAD TWO LONG TALKS WITH JOBERT AND MET WITH MESSMER AND POMPIDOU. ACCORDING TO QUAI EASTERN AFFAIRS OFFICER TREMEAU, THE ONVERSATIONS WERE DIVIDED INTO TWO PARTS, MULTI-LATERAL AND BI-LATERAL. THE FORMER DEALT WITH THE MIDDLE EAST, CSCE AND BALKAN RELATIONS. MLADENOV MAKE THE POINT THAT THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES IN CSCE BASKET ONE, ESPECIALLY ABSTENTION FROM THE USE OF FORCE, COULD HAVE APPLICATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST CONTEXT. THE BULGARIANS STRESSED THE NEED FOR A PREAMBLE TO BASKET THREE ISSUES AND FOR A PERMANENT CONSULTATIVE ORGAN. IN GENERAL THEY FOLLOWED SOVIET POSITIONS DOWN THE LINE. MLADENOV GAVE THE FRENCH A UNILATERAL BRIEFING ON BALKAN PROBLEMS, STRESSING BULGARIS'S DIFFICULT POSITION SURROUNDED BY TWO NATO COUNTRIES, OF WHICH ONE WAS MILITARIST, A PRO-CHINESE COUNTRY, ALBANIA, AND A COUNTRY WITH IRREDENTIST CLAIMS, YUGOSLAVIA. ROMANIA WAS NOT MENTIONED. ON THE MACEDONIAN QUESTION, MLADENOV STRESSED THAT BULGARIA WOULD NEVER CEDE ANY TERRITORY AND WAS PREPARED TO SIGN A PACT WITH THE YUGOSLAVS AFFIRMIN THE TERRITORIAL STATUS QUO.

3. ON THE BI-LATERAL SIDE, ACCORDING TO TREMEAU, THE DISCUSSIONS FOCUSED ON ECONOMIC QUESTIONS. BULGARIS HAS BEEN RUNNING A 40 PER CENT DEFICIT IN ITS BALANCE OF PAYMENTS WITH FRANCE AND HAS REACTED BY CUTTING DOOWN ON PURCHASES FROM FRANCE RATER THAN BY TRYING TO INCREASE EXPORTS. THE FRENCH HAVE NOW PRESENTED A COUNTER-DRAFT TO THE BULGARIANS FOR A TEN-YEAR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT. THE PROJECT WAS INITIATED BY MESSMER AND JOBERT IN SOFIA LAST JULY AND THE FRENCH EXPECT IT TO BE SIGNED EARLY NEXT YEAR. NEXT SPRIG, THE FRENCH WILL SEND A MISSION OF FRENCH INDUSTRIALISTS TO BULGARIS, ORGANIZED BY THE CNPF (FRENCH MANUFACTURERS ASSOC.) TO LOOK INTO NEW INVESTMENT POSSIBILITIES. ON THE CULTURAL FRONT, THE BULGARIANS SAID THEY AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO ESTABLISHMENT OF A FRENCH CULTURAL CENTER OR RADING ROOM IN SOFIA, BUT THEY ARE MOVING SLOWLY. BEING WARY THAT IT COULD STIMULATE SIMILAR REQUESTS
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PARIS 30798 010449Z

BY OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES.

4. TREMEAU SAID THAT THE FRENCH WERE EXTREMELY IMPRESSED WITH MLADENOV, WHO SHOWED HIMSELF TO BE CAPABLE, INTELLIGENT, FLEXIBLE AND MIABLE. THE FRENCH WERE NATURALLY PLEASED BY HIS ABILITY TO SPEAK THEIR NATIVE TONGUE, WHICH THEY CLAIM HAS REACHED A STATUS SECOND ONLY TO RUSSIAN AMONG FOREIGN LANGUAGES TAUGHT AND SPOKEN IN BULGARIS.

5. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, BULGARIAN EMBASSY COUNSELLOR KEREMIDAROV CONFIRMED GENERAL LINES OF QUAI RUNDOWN ON THE VISIT,

HE CLAIMED THAT THE FRENCH HAD ONLY THEMSELVES TO BLAME

FOR COMMERCIAL PROBLEMS, HE NOTED FRANCE HAD NOW FALLEN TO FOURTH PLACE AMONG WESTERN COUNTRIES IN COMMERCIAL TURNOVER WITH BULGARIA. HE FELT THE FRENCH DID NOT UNDERSTAND THE BULGARIAN NEED TO REPLACE ANTIQUATED INDUSTRIAL PLANT FROM THE EARLY POST-WAR PERIOD WITH MODERN MACHINERY UNDER CURRENT SIX-YEAR PLAN. WHILE HE WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT THE FRENCH-BULGARIAN TEN YEAR AGREEMENT AND THE VISIT OF INDUSTRIALISTS WOULD BE BENEFICIAL, HE SEEMED EVEN MORE ANXIOUS THAT THE U.S. BECOME MORE INTERESTED IN BULGARIAN INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

6. THE MOST INTERESTING DEVELOPMENT CONCERNING MLADENOV'S TRIP OCCURRED AFTER HIS DEPARTURE. ON NOVEMBER 27, THE COMMUNIST DAILY L'HUMANITE TOOK HIM TO TASK FOR A STATEMENT HE MADE TO THE PRESS AFTER HIS VISIT WITH POMPIDOU FOUR DAYS EARLIER. MLADENOV HAD BEEN QUOTED AS SAYING THAT FRANCE WAS PARTICIPATING ACTIVELY IN THE CSCE AND THAT IT WAS TO ITS CREDIT TO HAVE SHOWN "OPENNESS." ACCORDING TO L'HUMANITE, THIS WAS BELIED BY THE FACTS. FRANCE WAS REALLY ARRESTING PROGRESS AT THE CSCE AND WAS WARNING PUBLIC OPINION AGAINST DETENTE. "FAR FROM UPPORTING THE EUROPEAN CONFERENCE AND CONTRIBUTING TO ITS SUCCESS, "L'HUMANITE CHARGED, POMPIDOU AND JOBERT WERE "ENDEAVORING TO JUSTIFY GOF EFFORTS FOR THE INTEGRATION OF CAPITALIST EUROPE HAVING IN VIEW A COMMON MILITARY ORGANIZATION, DEPENDENT ON THE U.S. AND DIRECTED AGAINST THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES." THE PCF ORGAN CONCLUDED THAT "NO ONE EXCEPT FOR PETAR MLADENOV, IT SEEMS, MISJUDGES THE GRAVITY OF THIS ORIENTATION."

7. COMMENT: NONE OF OUR CONTACTS HERE INCLUDING THOSE AT THE CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 PARIS 30798 010449Z

QUAI AND THE SOVIET RUMANIAN, AND BULGARIAN EMBASSIES, AS WELL AS SEVERAL WESTERN JOURNALISTS WE HAVE TALKED TO, HAS ANY CONVINCING EXPLANATION FOR THIS ATTACK. THE POINT MADE BY L'HUMANITE WAS REINFORCED THE NEXT DAY IN A LONG LETTER FROM MARCHAIS TO POMPIDOU (SEPTEL), BUT WHY MLADENOV, THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE COUNTRY MOST LOYAL TO MOSCOW, WAS SINGLED OUT REMAINS ESSENTIALLY A MYSTERY. WE CAN ONLY SURMISE THAT MARCHAIS, WHO HAD SEEN BREZHNEV ONLY A WEEK EARLIER, AND WHO HAD PRESUMABLY BEEN GIVEN A GREEN LIGHT TO STEP UP CRITICISM OF FRENCH POLICY IN THE EC, CHOSE THE FIRST AVAILABLE TARGET OF OPPORTUNITY. THE ARTICLE MAY HAVE ALSO BEEN CALCULATED TO HAVE A DAMPENING EFFECT ON FRENCH TIES WITH EASTERN EUROPE. THIS WAS ALSO "EDUCATED GUESS" OF RUMANIAN DCM GHIBERNEA, WHO SAID SOVIETS WERE PROBABLY DISPLEASED BY "MORE THAN FOREIGN MINISTER" TREATMENT ACCORDED MLADENOV. SPEAKING THROUGH PCF ORGAN, SOVIETS SEEMED TO BE WARNING BOTH SOFIA AND PARIS THAT MOSCOW REMAINS THE INTERLOCUTOR IN EASTERN EUROPE, GHIBERNEA SURMISED. IN ANY CASE, THE BULGARIANS HERE ARE CLEARLY UPSET OVER THE INCIDENT WHICH, TO THEM, SPOILED WHAT THEY CONSIDERED AN OTHERWISE SUCCESSFUL VISIT.

GDS
STONE

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 11 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, PRESS COMMENTS, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PARIS30798
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731166/abqcegly.tel
Line Count: 165
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <19-Sep-2001 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF BULGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO PARIS
TAGS: PFOR, EIND, BU, FR
To: STATE INFO BELGRADE
BUCHAREST
BONN
BUDAPECT
LONDN
MOSCOW
PRAGUE

SOFIA
WARSAW
GENEVA
EC BRUSSELS
NATO

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005